

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**1. Request for Continued Examination:**

The applicant respectfully requests continued examination of the above-indicated application as per 37 CFR 1.114.

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The amendments made to the claims in the above section are over the last entered amendment filed December 14, 2005.

2. Rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph:

10 Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Response:

15 Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to remove the ambiguous language previously contained in the claims. The claim now recites that "no reflector is installed on the right side of the lens, no reflector is located above a first plane defined by a top end of the lens, and no reflector is located below a second plane defined by a bottom end of the lens". In other words, the reflector is not located in any
20 three of these positions. In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 10, reconsideration of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

25 Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsai (US 5,883,727).

Response:

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to overcome this rejection.
30 Each of these claims now clearly recites that no reflector is installed on the right side of the lens, no reflector is located above a first plane defined by a top end of the lens,

and no reflector is located below a second plane defined by a bottom end of the lens. Each of these claim amendments is fully supported in Figures 2-4 of the present invention, and no new matter is added. In other words, the reflectors are limited to being directly to the left of the lens.

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The distinguishing characteristic of the present invention is that the image reading device (or scanning module) can be made much thinner by installing all reflectors directly to one side of the lens. Since none of the reflectors are positioned above the plane defined by a top end of the lens and none of the reflectors are positioned below the plane defined by a bottom end of the lens, the image reading device can be made considerably thinner.

In contrast, Tsai does not teach that no lenses are positioned above the plane defined by a top end of the lens and no lenses are positioned below the plane defined by a bottom end of the lens. Tsai's Fig.20 illustrates that reflector 202g is installed above a first plane defined by a top end of the lens and reflector 201g is installed below a second plane defined by a bottom end of the lens. None of Tsai's embodiments teach that no reflector is located above a first plane defined by a top end of the lens and that no reflector is located below a second plane defined by a bottom end of the lens, as is recited in the currently amended claims 1 and 10. Therefore, claims 1 and 10 are patentably distinguished from the prior art. Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are dependent on claims 1 and 10, and should be allowed if claims 1 and 10 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

4. Rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koseki et al. (US 4,751,582, hereinafter Koseki).

Response:

Koseki does not teach that no reflectors are positioned above the plane defined by a top end of the lens and no reflectors are positioned below the plane defined by a bottom end of the lens. In Fig.1, Koseki teaches that reflectors 50 and 52 are installed

below the plane defined by a bottom end of lens 56. Therefore, Koseki fails to teach the claimed limitation that no reflector is located above a first plane defined by a top end of the lens and no reflector is located below a second plane defined by a bottom end of the lens, as is recited in the currently amended claims 1 and 10. Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are dependent on claims 1 and 10, and should be allowed if claims 1 and 10 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

5. Rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 7-10, 13, 14, and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e):

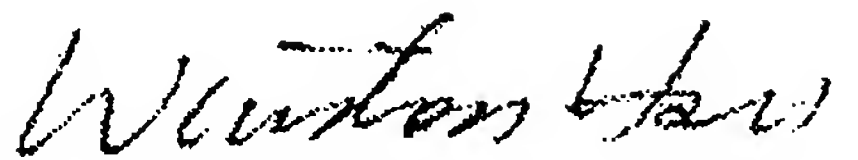
Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-10, 13, 14, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lan (US 6,762,861).

Response:

Lan does not teach that no reflectors are positioned above the plane defined by a top end of the lens and no reflectors are positioned below the plane defined by a bottom end of the lens. In Fig.5, Lan teaches that reflectors 53 and 54 are installed below the plane defined by a bottom end of lens 56. Therefore, Lan fails to teach the claimed limitation that no reflector is located above a first plane defined by a top end of the lens and no reflector is located below a second plane defined by a bottom end of the lens, as is recited in the currently amended claims 1 and 10. Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are dependent on claims 1 and 10, and should be allowed if claims 1 and 10 are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Sincerely yours,



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